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## Hawaiian Gazette

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Hawaiian Gazette

TUESDAY, MARCH, 8, 1887.

AN IMPORTANT INDUSTRY. Ramie Growing in the Hawaiian

Islands.

EDITOR GAZETTE—About twenty years ago Dr. Hillebrand sent to California and China after ramie roots and seed, and after the roots arrived here he sent about a pound to Kona, Hawaii, and half a sound to Waileku, Maui. The roots sent to Kona were planted by an old native, long since dead, and those sent to Maui were planted in Iao Valley by Capt. Wilfong. The roots planted in both places were almost entirely neglected, and in Wailuku the cattle have nearly destroyed it, but in Kona no cattle ranged on the ground where the ramie was planted, and so it has continued to grow and spread ever since, notwithstanding the dense growth of Lantana and Hilo grass surrounding it on every side, and the ramie now covers about thirteen acres, from the original planting of one pound of seed, besides the native first planting sold some roots to a Chinaman, who ing sold some roots to a Chinaman, who planted them about three miles from the first planting by the native, and this patch, which is about twelve years growth, covers seven or eight acres, and from these two patches of ramie the natives and Chinamen in Kona have for years made their fishing

lines and some nets.

Something like nine years ago a small machine was imported by the Hitchcock Brothers, in Hilo at that time. Messrs. Hitchcock planted some ramie, but as the machine was a failure they gave up the ramie business, so they were the first men in this country to invest and lose money in the

ramie industry.

After that Mr. C. C. Coleman thought that he could improve on the machine imported by Messrs. Hitchcock, and Messrs. S. N. Castle and B. F. Dillingham furnished the money needed for his experiments to the sum of \$7,000. After his machine was finished Mr. Coleman secured patents in several countries, but as Messrs. Castle and Dillingham stopped the supply of money, Mr. Coleman allowed the whole affair to drop Mr. Coleman allowed the whole affair to drop into the background, and nothing was done to revive the ramie industry until three or four years ago, when the textile people all over the world became interested in ramie through the untiring zeal of such men as Professors F. Fremery, Le Franc and Berthet. Bewards were offered by several governments for a machine that would are governments for a machine that would pre-pare the fibre of ramie for market so that it would be profitable at from 5 to 15 cents per ib. These offers have so stimulated in-ventors that no less than eighteen machines of more or less merit have been patented for

cleaning ramie, but very few of the patents

are of value.

The H. C. Smith (Death & Ellwood) machine took the reward offered in British India, \$14,000, but as it only cleans from 60 to 100 pounds per day, and requires three men, two-horse power engine and 400 gallons of water per hour, the machine is only good for small growers, and will not prove of much value even to them. A machine invented by George Gibson, from the reports of the New Orleans Exposition, seems to have a goodly amount of merit, but is of small capacity, 400 pounds per day. Two men, two boys and a three-horse power en gine are required to run it, so report savs. A machine that is said to do a large amount of work has been invented by a gentleman in Guatemala, but as he has no patents yet, and one gentleman who went to see it operate for me says that it can only handle a small amount of ramie stalks per day (it requires four minutes for a lot of stalks to pass through the machine), and as it cannot pro-perly treat over 25 stalks at a time, and it only produces 31/2 per cent. of fibre, it is very easy to see that the claim of 4,000 pounds per day is very far from being correct. One hundred stalks per minute is for ten hours 63,000; twenty green stalks weigh about one pound; 3,000 pounds of green stalks at 35 per cent., 105 pounds of clean fibre. But ope that the machine will prove better than the above showing. I show the above figures because several have become much interested in this new machine, but without the east knowledge of facts in regard to working ramie.

About three years ago, after endeavoring to get Mr. Coleman to set up his machine without success, Mesers. Dillingham, Castle and myself bought out his patents and ma-chines, and immediately had the machine set up and tried, but it was so complicated that it was practically useless, so I began modifying it, and at last so perfected it that we could only secure a patent as a new invention, and not as an improvement. This machine was decided by the Commissioner. Col. Jonathan Austin, appointed by the Government, to be entitled to the bonns (\$10,000) voted by the Legislature, but as the reason given for not paying it by the then Minister of the Interior (no money in the Treasury) has not to my knowledge been removed, we have not received the money up to the pres-ent time. As the fibre cleaned by that ma-chine (for which we were offered five cents per pound for all that we could make in five years) was often cut by the fluted rollers, and was delivered from the machine some what tangled, I have since perfected a machine that never cuts the fibre, nor can the fibre by any possibility be tangled while being cleaned. The proved capacity of the new machine is at least one ton (2,000 pounds) per day. It needs two men, two boys and one-horse-power engine to operate. The product is a clean ramie bark, and at present is worth from 10 to 15 cents per pound.

The Hawaiian Hamie Company (Limited) owns the two Colman machines and the two

invented by me, has thirty-six agree of ramie growing on the plantation in Puna (400 acres) where over \$12,000 has been spent in improvements, and we can now confidently improvements, and we can now confidently say that at last the ramie industry here is an assured fact, and that the business will prove at least as profitable as sugar. I will give you a few figures. For perfect tion in growing ramie we want rich soil, little wind, warm climate and plenty of rain, but as the ramie plant does fairly well, or as well as sugar cane does, wherever the cane

grows ramie will grow. So there is no lack of plenty of room for ramie, and as ramie needs no cultivation except to keep the grass and weeds out the first year, there are hundreds of places where ramie can be successfully grown, where it would not pay to plant The cost to us for the first fear is about \$100 per acre. This includes cost of seed, and as one planting is all that is needed, the expense after the first year is only for entting and stripping off the leaves. After the first year we can cut three or four crops every year, depending on conditions of soil, std., and will get from a ton and a half to two tons and a half of fibre to the acre for each crop, and at five cents per pound, taking three crops and at ton and a half to the acre, we have as a result, gross receipts, \$450 per acre per annum, and say that cleaning and marketing, etc. (a very high estimate), costs

three quarters, we have as not result \$112.50 for every acre planted in ramie. I will gladly answer any questions within my knowledge concerning ramis. Respectfully, Manager Hawaiin Ramie Company, Hilo, Hawaii,

A Correspondent Answered

In answer to "Y's questions: 1. The Princess Beatrice was married at Osborns, Isle of bright, to Prince Henry of Battenberg, July 23rd, 1885. 2. No.

Hope for the Nation.

In one line, at least, the Hawaiian Government shows great vitality. It may be bankrupt in its shances, incompetent for the responsibility of keeping in order the roads and bridges of the Kingdom and unequal to a proper selection of the rank and file of the official brigade; it may bungle in the management of its minute bundle of foreign affairs, may be unable to keep its accounts correctly, and fail to keep its expenditures within the limitations of the appropriation bill or within the revenues, yet it shows genuine ability in creating royal orders, and for this let us be truly thankful. The late creation of the Order of Oceania renews the waning confidence of the community in a government which is capable of accomplishing so much upon so small resources. Henceforth, if things get down to a low obb and the times are out of joint, and affairs seem to be on the point of going to pieces, let us not give up the ship, but remember that there is a hand at the belin which, when all seems loct, will save the state by launching a new royal order upon the community, to which many a poor devil, wrecked in fortune or reputation, or both, may cling and float through the storm to some haven of content. Let us not forget the Hale Nana Society, and remember that the gentus that could conceive and carry out so naive and phenomenal a creation may be relied on for yet greater things in the same direction. An interesting and praiseworthy feature of the new order of Oceania is that the members are required to wear clothes; this is a definite advance from the Hale Nuan Society, whose members are indeed required to wear cartain things, but which are of so archaic a character that the uninitiated are at a loss whether they represent garments or decorations. ter that the uninitiated are at a loss whather they represent garments or decorations. The members of the Oceania order are, how-ever, to be rewarded for obedience to the onerous requirement of wearing clothes by the gorgeousness of the costume and the exalted privilege of fastening a jewelled garter to the sinister leg just below the knee, and in order that the gaping crowd may know that the garter is in place, and so give due honor to the wearer, he is to wear knick

know that the garter is in place, and so give due honor to the wearer, he is to wear knickerbockers instead of pantaloons. For these high honors, and the privilegs of wearing the jewelled garter and paying for it, the knight is allowed, nay, generously compelled, to the further privilege of contributing to the royal pin money the truly insignificant sum of from \$50 to \$150. Hie illae lacrymae!

This is but a beginning; greater things are in store for loyal subjects; new and more glorious orders will shortly rise in the Hawaiian firmament, not only stars, but full moons and new moons, and suns and clusters, and nebulæ and meteors and comeets. The Empire of the Calabash will expand and become great upon the firm foundations built of these royally hewn supports. We may expect in the near future the Order of the Tattooed Drinking Gourd, the Order of the Gilded Malo, the Order of the Royal Cuspidor, the Order of the Iwikanmoo or Backscratcher, the Order of the Feather Cloak, the Order of the Genealogical Fig and, most glorious and popular of all, the Order of the Hoopilimeanis. Then will be fully ushered in the golden age of moral forces in the Hoopilimeasis. Then will be fully ushered in the golden age of moral forces in the Pacific, when such base instruments as even the Kaimiloa, alias Coffee Mill, alias Conundrum, late Explorer, now floating Reformatory School on the high seas, will be no longer necessary. I. Twing.

St. Andrew's Church Association. On Thursday evening last, the monthly meeting of the St. Andrew's Church Association was held in the old pro-Cathedral building, and was well attended, several ladies being present in the control of th weather. The Rev. G. Wallace, President,

was in the chair. The meeting was opened by prayer, and after the routine business, the paper of the evening was read by the Rev. H. Gowan, who had prepared a very interesting and valuable essay on the theme proposed at the last meeting, viz: the clause in the Apostle's last meeting, viz: the clause in the Apostie a creed, "The Holy Catholic Church." Beginning with the derivation and meaning of the word "Church," the reverend gentleman traced the usages of the Church Apostolic and Catholic from the times of the Apostles, The continuous and unbroken laying on of hands from St. Peter and St. John, through St. Augustine, the first to the present, the 126th Archbishop of Canterbury. At the conclusion of Mr. Gowan's paper, a

passed, when the Rev. G. Wallace added a few remarks, showing the continued descent of the Episcopate in America from that of Scotland. A resolution was passed appointing the hour of 7:30 p. m. on the first Thursday of each month for future meetings, and inviting discussion on the various points made by Mr. Gowan in his paper, for the subject

vote of thanks was warmly and unani

by Mr. Gowan in his of the next meeting.

Another Growl. Lahama, March 1st, 1877.

Editor Gazette:—One of the constitutional grumblers of Lahama, has again taken pen in hand, filled with regret, and perhaps I should say indignation at some of the past week's proceedings.

It seems almost as if we are doomed to sit with folded hands and have our house.

with folded hands and have our houses broken into and plundered—our brothers, broken into and plundered—our brothers, husbands, sons—yes, and wives and daughters too, become drunkards and given over to vice in every form, and powerless to resist the waves of destruction that threaten to engulf them at every turn.

Something like thirty gin shops, gambling and opium dens with several places where "swipes" and "okuletaa" are furnished; children gambling on the street corners and running at large nearly all night, thus renrunning at large nearly all night, thus rendering them unfit for school duties; boys of the tender age of six years beastly drunk; women reeling on horseback or staggering

earned dollars for swipes and gin, and their wives and children without proper elething and food; drunken policemen do; such is and has been the condition of Lahaina for some time past. GROWLER. New Scenery for the Theatre.

along the streets; men spending their

The drop scene at the theatre is to be touched up and renovated by Mr. Jules Tavernier, who is also going to paint a tro-pical back ground for the stage. While Mr. Tavernier is employed there, it might be as well if the proprietors were to get him to paint a couple more interiors. The present "blue chamber" is a very unsatisfactory one for a drawing room scene, such as is often required in society comedies of the modern style. We are well aware that the theatre is not a paying property, but we do not think that the additions suggested would be vary expensive and they would add much to the completeness of the theatre.

The Roads.

Recently Nananu street and a portion of King street received a supply of broken atoms to fill up the ruts, and on top of all a liberal quantity of black and was apread, after which the steam roller was called into requisition, and the whole amounted down into a passable looking roadbed; but just wait to the contract of the received the research of the received the re passable looking roadbed; but just wall until the first heavy rain falls and see where the sand will be. If it had not been for the funeral on Sunday, there would have been no temporary repairs made, unless some of the "big injins" becke their necks in the holes; the common trash can always take care of themselves, and no money needs to be laid out on their account for roads. At least this appears to be the programme.

The Honofuln Boat and Yacht Cinx more